

***The National Codification Bureau of the
United Kingdom
January 2024***



THE UNITED KINGDOM NATIONAL CODIFICATION BUREAU

ORGANISATION

Operations in the UK are conducted under the Ministry of Defence, in support of military operations. The UK requires a robust method of identifying spare stores and materiel, for logistic support as well as a means to enable effective interoperability with other NATO nations supply chains, the UK National Codification Bureau is charged with providing this function for UK Ministry of Defence.

The United Kingdom National Codification Bureau (UK NCB) is responsible for the day-to-day NATO Codification System (NCS) within the UK. The UK NCB is part of the Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) and is based in Glasgow, Scotland. The UK NCB is the custodian of the UK **Codification Support Information System (CSIS)**, which is the master catalogue for UK logistic support. CSIS contains over 6 million NATO Stock Number (NSN) records identifying and describing items of equipment used by the UK armed services.

The UK is a member of the NATO Codification System (NCS) and the UK NCB represents its interests on the NATO Group of National Directors of Codification. The UK NCB collaborates closely with NATO member nations and is the focus for international codification transactions between member and sponsored nations. UK NCB offices provide system support files, (containing NCAGE, National Supply Classification, and Item Name Codes and FIIG data), systems and Information Technology support.

HISTORY

The National Codification Bureau has existed within the UK since the adoption of the NATO Codification System (NCS) in 1956 and sited in Kentigern House, Glasgow since 1986. Initially titled the Defence Codification Authority (DCA), as part of Defence Cost Study 10, DCA subsumed the existing service codification cells in Royal Navy Codification Agency (RNCA), Army Codification Agency (ASCA), and Royal Air Force Codification Agency (RAFCA).

The Defence Codification Agency was launched in June 1996, as a tri service Defence Support Agency. During 1998 a study of Integrated Logistics Support in UK MOD recommended the merging of Defence Codification and Air Technical Publications. As a result, Defence Codification Air Logistics Documentation (DCALD) was formed in April 1999.

In April 2000, to align with the formation of the Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO) through the Strategic Defence Review, DCALD separated into two strategic Business Units within the newly formed Corporate Technical Services division of the DLO. Consequently, the organisational title changed to the UK National Codification Bureau (UK NCB).

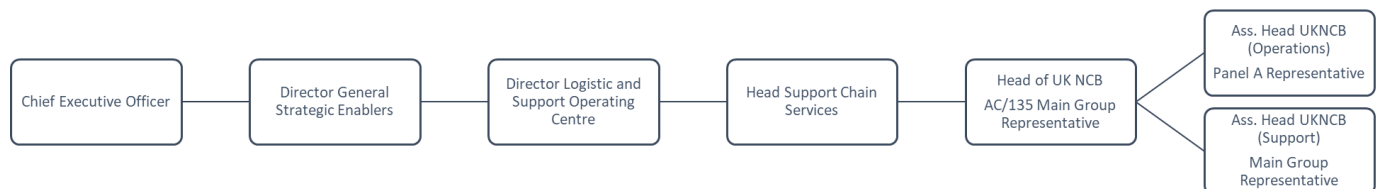
In April 2005 UK NCB became part of the Technical Enabling Service -Technical Information Group (TES-TIG).

In April 2007 UK NCB became part of the Defence Equipment & Support (DE&S) formed from the merger of the Defence Logistics Organisation (DLO) and the Defence Procurement Agency (DPA).

DE&S Mission is:

"To equip and support our armed forces for operations now and in the future."

Organisational Chart



AIM

The Aim of UK NCB

UK NCB policy is to be proactive in promoting the benefits of codification and therefore has adopted the following aim:

"To maximise the benefits of the NATO Codification System".

The Department's Objectives

Within the aim, the strategic objectives of UK NCB are to:

- Represent the interests of the UK in developing and implementing NATO codification policy.
- Ensure that codification practices and procedures in the UK reflect both national and NATO policy.
- Ensure that each item of supply in the MoD UK inventory is identified uniquely and allocated a NATO Stock Number (NSN).
- Maintain an efficient database of codification information and related systems.
- Seek continuous improvements in value for money, efficiency and quality, taking into account technical developments and the changing requirements of the MoD.
- Identify and meet customer needs for codification and actively promote the benefits.
- Manage, to an appropriate quality standard, the codification process throughout the MoD and UK Industry.
- To remain in the vanguard of Project Management Lifecycle (PML) and Integrated Logistics Support (ILS) technology.

DATABASE

The codification tool in the UK NCB is Codification Support Information System (CSIS), which the design rights lie with UKNCB, but Logica CGI carries out the physical development and Maintenance, the database is developed in INFOMIX.

NCS SEGMENTS

Item-oriented data is stored in the Total Item Record (TIR) in the segments shown below:

A	Identification Data
B	Major Organisational Entity Rule Data
C	Reference Number Data
E	Standardization Decision Data
G	Freight Classification Data
H	Catalogue Management Data
J	Source of Supply Data
V	Characteristics Data

All of these segments are subject to output to data receivers. Also, Segment V (encoded data) is normally converted to Segment M (decoded data) for output purposes.

NATO CODIFICATION TOOLS IN USE BY UKNCB

The following tools/publications are in use by UKNCB

Title	Code	Edition Date	Remarks
NATO Manual on Codification	ACodP-1	Latest issue	Issued by NAMSA in electronic format January and July each year. All Hard Copies should be destroyed.
NATO Supply Classification & NATO Item Name Directory	ACodP-2 ACodP-3	Latest issue	Multilingual.
AC/135 Codification Support Publications	AC/135 CodSP	Latest issue	NCB use only.
99 M-1 Issue: February 2008 UNITED KINGDOM MANUAL FOR CODIFICATION OF MATERIEL M1	99M1	Latest issue	UKNCB use only

Item Identification Guides	IIGS	Latest issue	Check web site for latest editions
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TRAINING

UK offers a range of online training modules in the following subjects and these are tailored to the students' requirements.

NATO Codification is a process of Identification, Classification, Naming and Unique Numbering of stores and the UK NCB provides Web Based Training, to personnel who require an understanding of the principles, aims and usage of the NATO Codification System, the history, reasons for and benefits of a common supply language.

- The Item of Supply Concept
- Approved and Non-Approved Item Names
- How a NATO Stock Number is formulated
- The NATO Stock Record on the CSIS Web system
- Reference Category and Variation Codes (RC+VC)
- NCAGE's and how they are formulated
- The complete functionality of CSIS Web.

UK NCB on the Internet

The home page of the UK NCB can be found at <http://www.ncb.mod.uk> and access to the online read only version of CSIS can be viewed there. It contains a vast amount of information on the UKNCB and the products and services we provide. CSIS Web provides online access to data held within the Codification Support Information System (CSIS). CSIS contains over 5 million items of supply, 11 million manufacturer's part numbers and 20 million item characteristics. CSIS Web is updated daily.